

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented) A shopping system which comprises:

a plurality of dealer terminals for supplying commodity information through a network;

an information retrieval service terminal for gathering said commodity information through said network; and

a plurality of user terminals for asking for information retrieval of said commodity information through said network,

wherein a retrieval information list is constituted on said information retrieval service terminal so that said user terminal acquires said retrieval information list, and based on an information retrieval request by said user terminal relating to a commodity selected from said retrieval information list, said information retrieval service terminal collates said commodity information with said information retrieval request, and refers shopping information narrowed down and thereby specified to said user terminal.

2. (previously presented) The shopping system according to claim 1, wherein said information retrieval service

terminal refers to said dealer terminal in response to said information retrieval request of said user terminal based on said shopping information, and mediates a purchase of commodity.

3. (previously presented) The shopping system according to claim 1, wherein said information retrieval service terminal shows a menu for designating a priority retrieval item when offering said retrieval information list to said user terminal, and specifies a content of said retrieval information list in accordance with said priority retrieval item designated by said user terminal.

4. (previously presented) The shopping system according to claim 1, wherein when said user terminal accesses said information retrieval service terminal through said network, said retrieval service terminal specifies a transmission range of said user terminal, selects dealers selling a target commodity, makes a list for a required number of the dealers and offers said list to said user terminal.

5. (new) A shopping system which comprises:

a plurality of dealer terminals for supplying commodity information through a network;

an information retrieval service terminal for gathering said commodity information through said network; and

a plurality of user terminals for asking for information retrieval of said commodity information through said network,

wherein a said user terminal issues an information retrieval request indicating a commodity that a user desires to purchase, and wherein said information retrieval service terminal collates said commodity information with said information retrieval request, and refers shopping information to said user terminal specifying at least one dealer who has the desired commodity for sale, the at least one dealer being selected based on having a lower sales price for said desired commodity than other dealers within said commodity information.

6. (new) The shopping system according to claim 1, wherein said information retrieval request indicates a plurality of different commodities that a user desires to purchase, and wherein said shopping information comprises a list of dealers who have the desired commodities for sale, the listed dealers being selected based on having a lower aggregate sales price for the desired commodities than other dealers within said commodity information.

7. (new) A shopping system which comprises:

a plurality of dealer terminals for supplying commodity information through a network;

an information retrieval service terminal for gathering said commodity information through said network; and

a plurality of user terminals for asking for information retrieval of said commodity information through said network,

wherein a said user terminal issues an information retrieval request indicating a commodity that a user desires to purchase and location information indicative or at least one of the user's location and an area in which the user desires to shop, and wherein said information retrieval service terminal collates said commodity information with said information retrieval request, and refers shopping information to said user terminal specifying a list of dealers each of whom has the desired commodity for sale, the listed dealers being selected based on at least one of their location and their having a lower sales price for said desired commodity than other dealers within said commodity information.